GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4455
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2005
AIR STATIONS IN KERALA
Paul Dr. Sebastian

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that All India Radio stations in Kochi, Thrissur and Devikulam in Kerala are functioning without Station Directors;

(b) if so, the steps taken to post Station Directors in these Stations;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to make the Vividh Bharati Station in Kochi, inaugurated in 1995, operational by deploying programme personnel;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to increase the allocation of funds to Kochi FM station from Rs. 6.9 lakhs in proportionate to its commercial earnings for Rs. 83 lakhs of the last financial year; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. All India Radio Stations at Kochi and Thrissur are functioning without Station Directors for the time being due to shortage of eligible Officers. However, there is no sanctioned post of Station Director at All India Radio, Devikulam.

(c) & (d) : Steps are being taken to introduce the noon transmission from 1200 hours to 1730 hours at the Vividh Bharati Station in Kochi. All India Radio Kochi broadcasts Vividh Bharati Programmes between 0615 hours to 1005 hours and between 1815 hours to 2300 hours.

(e) & (f) : Rs. 13.18 lakh has been allocated to All India Radio, Kochi for the year 2005-06 under IEBR, Software Plan Scheme for enhanced production and Kisan Vani programmes. Further increases will depend upon availability of budgetary support.